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SUSTAINING

"UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS" # 706

11:30-12:30 P.M.

MAY 4, 1934

FRIDAY

ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers" -

ORCHESTRA: QUARTER: RANGER SONG

ANNOUNCER: According to the Forest Service there are in the United States more than 30 millions of acres of land in need of reforestation. Within our national forests there are over 2 million acres of fire devastated land to be reforested - surely a big job which will challenge the efforts of Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers for many years. In the past year the tree planting program has been given a big boost by the preserve of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

It is reported that last year the C.C.C. boys planted 75,000 acres to trees and that a larger planting program has been mapped out for this second year of the Corps' activities.

Up on the Pine Cone Ranger District there are some old burns which are being reforested, and a crew of the C.C.C. boys from Camp Robbins will be engaged on this work during the short spring planting season. As we tune in today, we discover Rangers Jim Robbins and Jerry Quick at the Blue Mountain burn. They are awaiting the arrival of the C.C.C. boys under the leadership of Camp Superintendent Dave Parsons. Here they are --

(SOUND OF MOTOR COMING TO STOP)

JIM: Here we are Jerry -

JERRY: Well, I guess we're in plenty of time. The boys aren't here yet.

(SLAM OF CAR DOOR)

JIM: Well - I'll sure be glad to get this planting work done. This old Blue Mountain burn has been an eye sore to me for a long time.

JERRY: It sure is a desolate place. Must have been a hot fire.

JIM: Yep - I reckon it was. It was before my time. It's always been just like this as long as I've known it.

JERRY: It's going to take a lot of trees to plant it.

JIM: About a million and a half. -- While we're waiting for the boys let's go down to the creek and see what kind of a job they did on heeling the trees in.

JERRY: Where are they?

JIM: I told that young foreman - what's his name? -- Snow? That brought them up yesterday to heel them in down close to the creek where the ground is good and moist.

JERRY: Do you suppose he understand "heeling in?"

JIM: Oh yes -- I questioned him -- he's a graduate forester. -- He said he had charge of a C.C.C. planting job down south last winter.

JERRY: Dave Parsons' pretty good at picking his foremen --

JIM: Here're the trees -- down here --

(COMING UP CLOSE)

JERRY: Oh yes. -- Don't look like a million and a half trees there.

JIM: 300,000 -- 200,000 ponderosa pine, 150,000 Douglas fir and 30,000 spruce.

JERRY: Oh that's not so many after all --

JIM: So -- if we have a good spell of planting weather I want to plant at least 300,000 this spring

JERRY: Let's see -- that will plant about --

JIM: About a thousand acres all together -- There's 1,000 acres in the barn. If we can get in a thousand acres this spring maybe we can get the other 500 planted next fall. -- The fall season's usually shorter -- can't depend on the weather --

JERRY: Sometimes we have a long Indian summer autumn --

JIM: Well, then it's liable to be too dry. No, I want to get the big end of the barn planted this spring and we'll have to step on it too

JERRY: Gee Jim, that's nice looking stock. Look at that pine -- nice bushy tops and good color too. How old are they?

JIM: The report on them is two year old seedlings for the pine and Douglas fir. The spruce are "two -- one" transplants. They were supposed to be four years old but after they'd been in the transplant rows one year they did so well they were ready to plant

JERRY: Let's see what kind of roots they've got -- (GRUNTS) By George they did a good job of heeling all right. Packed in as tight as you please.

JIM: Yeah -- a good job. I'll have to compliment that young fellow on this job

(SOUND OF MOTOR HORN AND HEAVY TRUCKS IN THE DISTANCE)

JIM: Here they come

JERRY: Looks like Dave's brought a good sized crew.

(MOTORS COMING CLOSER -- LOUDER -- STOP)

JIM: I told him we would start with 30 men. When we get them well trained we'll add the rest of the Company. Let's go up --

(SOUND OF MANY VOICES AND CLATTER OF MATTOCKS UNLOADING, OFF)

JERRY: Look at some of those fellows pulling their shirts off already - (LAUGHS) I'll bet they put them on again - the wind's kinda chilly -

JIM: (CHUCKLES) They sure have lots of pep and enthusiasm - (RAISES VOICE) Hi - Good morning Dave -

DAVE: 'Morning Jim. You're right on hand.

JIM: Yeah, I want to be sure this job gets started right.

DAVE: Hello Jerry.

JERRY: 'Morning Dave - we were just down looking at the trees -

DAVE: (CALLING) Hey Snow - line the men up in squads of eight - Huh? What say Jerry? (BACKGROUND OF VOICES COUNTING OFF 1 TO 8)

JERRY: Nice bunch of planting stock - do you know where the different kinds go?

DAVE: Yeah. Jim's got it all planned out on a map there -

JIM: Have you got the plan handy, Dave? I'd like to go over it with Jerry.

DAVE: Yeah, it's rolled up there on the seat of that first truck - Jim - (GOING OFF) - I'll go ahead and get these boys bunched up.

JIM: Let's have a look at it, Jerry -

JERRY: I guess it is is it -

(SOUND OF OPENING LARGE SHEET OF HEAVY PAPER)

JIM: Yeah - that's a map of the whole burn on a scale of 12 inches to the mile. This is the boundary of the area we plant this spring - 'bout a thousand acres, see?

JERRY: Uh huh

JIM: This hatching shows where the pine goes. This is the Douglas fir on the north slopes and down here in the canyon we'll put the spruce

JERRY: I see. Where you going to begin?

JIM: We'll put the pine in first. It goes on the dryer sites on the South slopes and ridges. So we'll plant it while the ground's moist. There's still some frost on the north slopes so we'll get that later. We'll plant the spruce later.

JERRY: We must be about - here, huh?

JIM: A little further down - about here - This row of contours is that big hill side yonder. That's where we'll start in this morning.

DAVE: (COMING UP) We're all set, Jim - Sent two squads down with snow to dig trees and make up the bundles

JIM: Good - now that row of poles with the white rags tied to them is the starting line. Let each squad leader line up his bunch at one of those flags. Here, roll this up.

(SOUND ROLLING UP THE MAP)

JERRY: Goin' to give them some instructions, Jim?

DAVE: A lot of these fellows claim they did planting work at the winter camp

JIM: Well they probably used a different method. Planting is
 almost impossible as used planting, here. This ground is too
 hard and rocky and largely for that. It'll all be hard
 work with machine work.

DAVID: Deep hole method, eh?

JIM: Yeah - I want some way to get the land into a better
 state ever planted a tree or not.

DAVID: Good idea, Jim. Then there won't be no excuse for you men
 who's nature of those men who want after the trees?

DAVID: They're coming now.

JIM: Well, let's get lined up then (TALKING VOICE) Each formation
 find your position with your squad. Plant a tree for your
 squad and then let each man in the squad plant one while
 you rest watch and see that it does it right. Then start
 planting right up the slope. Watch your line of flags
 and keep in your own strips. Remember 3 feet apart each way.

DAVID: (CALLS) Okay - let's go boys -

(GENERAL CONFUSION OF VOICES - "Hey that's my tree" - "Hip, hey,
 hey" "LOOKOUT THAT TREE WILL GO OFF" - "HEY PLANT" -
 (FADE OUT - FADE IN - FADE IN))

JERRY: That's first class, fellows. Now if you cut all down trees in as well as that, they'll come down. Now let's check the main points over again before we start. First keep the roots covered so the trees don't dry out. Remember a dry tree is a dead one. There's no use so plant it second - when you pull the dirt out of the hole - don't chatter at all around - keep it up right by the hole so you can push it back in. - Hold the tree in position - roots spread out in the hole - show in the dirt. Pack it tight with your feet - Remember - no air spaces around the roots. - Keep in line - 3 feet apart - two long and a short step between trees. - Does every body understand now?

VOICE: That is it lands you right on a cock?

JERRY: Plant the trees along side of the rock - and keep on going - are you all set?

CHORUS: That -- let's go

(SOUND OF MATTOCKS DIGGING)

(FADEOUT - MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

(FADEIN)

JIM: (HEARILY) Well Jerry, I'm glad the first day is over

JERRY: I'm tired too, Jim. -- Up and down those steep slopes - over rocks and through the brush. (LAUGHS) It took the pranks out of those boys too

JIM: I was glad when the last truck load pulled out for camp. I reckon we'd better get into the old "pick-up" and follow 'em.

JERRY: You get in on the other side, Jim, I'll drive

JIM: All right. (CAR DOOR SLAMS) (SOUND OF STARTER AND MOTOR -
(CAR STARTS)

JIM: Let's take our time Jerry - this road's pretty rough -

JERRY: I was just thinking today Jim - the sun will get pretty
hot on those peeled in trees -

JIM: I thought of that - I took a squad down and had them build
a brush sun shade over the bed.

JERRY: That's good - how many did we plant today?

JIM: About 25,000 -

JERRY: Is that all? Gosh - and 800,000 to plant. We'll never get
'em in before hot weather.

JIM: Oh this is just the first day - wait till we get strong
out here, we'll plant 50,000 or more a day -

JERRY: (WISTFULLY) Well, I wish this was the end of the last day
instead of the first - and we were headed back for the old
Pine Cone Station -

JIM: Wouldn't mind if I was going to roll into my own bed
tonight, too.

JERRY: You know, Jim, I never realized 'till she sang that song at
the exercises the other day what a beautiful voice Maryle
got -

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Touch of homesickness, eh?

JERRY: No, - not really Jim she has a peach of a voice - just as
clear and sweet -

JIM: Well she's a mighty sweet girl -

JERRY: But no kidding Jim, she's -

JIM: (WARNING SHOUT) Hey! watch out! Jerry! (ATTLE OF CAR - STOP ABRUPTLY)

JIM: (WITH RELIEF) Well, we're still right side up - I guess we were over the road sure -

JERRY: What happened, Jim?

JIM: I dunno. You're s'posed to be doing the driving.

JERRY: Hoozek, I didn't see that rock at all -

JIM: You didn't see the bend in the road either or you wouldn't have hit that rock

JERRY: 'Spouse we can ease out of here without jarring it over the edge?

JIM: Let's get the doors open so we can jump (DOORS OPEN) I'll have to ease out on your side - this front wheel is over the edge. It's almost straight down.

JERRY: (CAUTIOUSLY - ALMOST A WHISPER) I'll stand on the running board Jim and keep the weight on this side - come on easy, now, easy - (WITH RELIEF) There -

JIM: Whew! I'm glad to be out of there

JERRY: What'll we do now?

JIM: I wonder if we can't put a prop under that front end to keep the car from falling over?

JERRY: Let's see (THEN OFF) Nothing doing. There's nothing to rest the prop on - (COMING BACK) It's a straight jump-off, there Jim.

JIM: Um - the rear wheels have good footing. If we give her the gun I believe she'll back right up into the road.

JERRY: Yeah - if she don't roll over the bank before we can back her.

JIM: I have it - take that rope in the back end and tie it across from the car to that sapling. Just a little extra life insurance while I get in and put 'er in reverse.

JERRY: Nothing doing. I'm the one that put 'er there and I'm going to back 'er out.

JIM: Well, be careful now, boy - I'll give you a pull here - leave the door open - Be sure she's going back when you let the brake off - (MOTOR STARTS)

JIM: (CALLS) Say when you're ready -

JERRY: (SHOUTS) GO! (MOTOR ROARS)

(MOTOR BACKS AWAY - STOPS)

JIM: Good boy! - Back on the road and none the worse off - Let's go to camp.

JERRY: (WEAKLY) You drive, Jim. - See if you can stay on the road.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) I reckon I'd better. You just settle back in the seat there and dream about Mary's angel voice.

(MUSIC)

ANNOUNCER: Well, kind of a close call, huh? At the end of a hard day close calls are allin the day's work for Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers.

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